



REPORT
ON THE
HEALTH OF THE BOROUGH
OF
GREAT YARMOUTH,
FOR THE YEAR 1882,
BY
JOHN BATELY,

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TO THE GREAT YARMOUTH URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.

GENTLEMEN,

The population of the Borough of Great Yarmouth, ascertained in April, 1881, to number 46,214, is estimated to have increased to 46,543 by the end of the same year, and to 46,982 by the 31st of December, 1882.

You will observe that the population is calculated to increase at the rate of 439 per annum. Between the two last censuses the population was found to have been augmented by 4,395 souls, and it is reasonable to suppose that a similar increase will take place during the present decade.

During the year ending with the 31st of December, 1882, there were registered within the Borough of Great Yarmouth 1525 Births and 953 Deaths, thus giving an increase of 572 persons. If the natural increase during the year be substituted for the estimated increase mentioned in the preceding paragraph, the total of our present population will be 47,115. But the last census proves that the whole of such increase does not stay with us, but migrates and disappears elsewhere. Hence it would be fallacious to calculate our vital statistics upon the figures resulting from the addition of the excess of births over deaths to the enumerated population. My records, during the last eight years, show an average of 583 more births than deaths per annum ; and the census only shows an annual increase of 439, hence some 144 persons per year pass away from Yarmouth unaccounted for. No doubt

herein are some of the population lost at sea, and therefore not entered in the town's mortality records, but many others of them leave the town to reside in other places.

The birth rate during 1882 was 32.45.

The death rate ,, 20.28.

The rate of increase ,, 12.17.

It is a remarkable fact, that, with the exception of 1878, which was an unusually fatal year, no one year's total of deaths of the last eight has come up to the figures obtained in 1875. The decrease is all the more striking when viewed with the fact that the population has during that time been increasing. Even were the deaths of those lost at sea included the same fact would remain, and it must be to you, the custodians of the public health of this borough, a source of encouragement to persevere in the good work of sanitary improvement you have been, and are now engaged in. To render this matter more evident, I have arranged the following table of figures relating to the last eight years :—

	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.
No. of births	1434	1490	1490	1553	1568	1561	1580	1525
No. of deaths	1036	920	900	1057	830	959	889	953
Birth rate	31.8	32.53	31.93	32.69	32.32	31.53	34.18	32.45
Death rate	23.02	20.01	19.29	22.25	17.11	19.37	19.23	20.28
Rate of increase	8.7	12.45	12.64	10.44	15.21	12.16	14.95	12.17
Zymotic deaths	201	155	109	147	79	173	114	134
Ditto, death rate	4.6	3.3	2.3	3.07	1.60	3.49	2.46	2.85

"The Table of Deaths" annexed hereto classifies many of the causes of the deaths. Amongst those of a *zymotic* character DIARRHŒA, as usual, heads the list. With the exception of only five cases, the whole of the deaths from this cause occurred in the latter half of July, August, September, and beginning of October; and the period thus indicated was exactly identical with the visiting season,

TABLE OF DEATHS

During the year 1882, in the Urban Sanitary District of Great Yarmouth, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities, and showing also the Population of such Localities, and the Births therein during the Year.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics.	Population at all Ages.		Mortality from all causes, at subjoined Ages.										Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children under Five Years of Age.																							
	Census 1881.	Estimated to middle of 1882.	Registered Births.	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 60	60 and upwards	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	30.	31.	32.	33.				
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	30.	31.	32.	33.				
NORTH DISTRICT }	20,612	20,730	621	461	119	64	22	17	111	128	Under 5 5 upwds.	—	4	5	0	2	7	—	0	—	30	—	0	0	—	0	—	0	37	0	1	97				
SOUTH DISTRICT }	16,601	16,738	552	355	107	45	10	18	69	106	Under 5 5 upwds.	—	6	1	—	1	6	—	1	—	37	—	0	—	—	—	—	—	3	32	0	0	65			
GORLESTON & SOUTHTOWN }	9,001	9,294	352	137	41	34	5	5	19	33	Under 5 5 upwds.	—	7	—	—	1	3	—	0	—	11	—	1	0	—	—	2	14	0	0	36					
TOTALS...	46,214	46,762	1,525	953	267	143	37	40	199	267	Under 5 5 upwds.	—	17	6	0	4	16	—	1	—	78	—	1	0	—	0	—	5	83	0	1	198				
											—	1	1	1	2	0	—	8	—	5	—	2	11	—	4	—	57	56	59	28	308					

when the town was crowded with visitors. It is very remarkable, but it is nevertheless a fact, that with the influx of visitors comes our annual scourge—Infantile Diarrhoea.

The exhalations and breaths of too many inmates poison the atmosphere of any house, and more especially so when the condition of that house is not so cleanly as it might be. During the visiting season, when householders of almost every grade are doing their utmost to attract and accommodate lodgers, frequently their infants get but very scant attention, and are left to the care of servants or other children of tender age, hence they are improperly fed and cared for. In the rows and other densely packed parts of the town, the resort of these child nurses especially is rather where nastiness abounds than the open spaces. Infants thus put off and neglected in their feeding and sleeping, and exposed to the hot rays of the sun and horrid stenches around them, very readily fall a prey to disease.

It is most necessary for health that the air circulating around dwelling houses should be as pure as possible. People in good circumstances, who can select a well appointed residence, to a great extent take care of themselves in this matter, but their poorer neighbours, who by force of circumstances are obliged to inhabit the rows and crowded courts, must have these sort of needs attended to for them by the public authority.

I maintain that the badly paved back yards, courts, and rows, with broken, irregular gutters, and leaking privy pits, allowing the contamination of the soil beneath with large quantities of liquid filth, send up the most noxious vapour every time a broiling sun casts its rays upon them.

To cover the yards, courts, and rows with concrete and to provide them with good guttering, is a work you should very early engage in. I have no doubt it will be an ex-

pensive undertaking, but it is most desirable not only from considerations of public health, but also for the improvement of property at present much neglected because of its disagreeable access.

The Diarrhoea deaths occurred in the following localities :

Mouse's Alley	Rothsay Cottages
Friar's Lane	Waveney Terrae
Burnt Lane (2)	Row 113
Timber Yard, Southtown	Grosvenor Road
Love Lane	The Conge
John Street, Garden Lane	Ely Plaee
Row 134	Rainbow Corner
New Wellington Plaee	St. Peter's Road
Fox's Passage	Blaekfriars' Road (2)
Yaxley's Buildings, Caister Road	Row 137
Victoria Road	Jane Place
Ansell's Buildings	Row 129
Tyrolean Square	Poole's Alley
Broad Row	Norman Square
Tower Street	Caister Road
Row 132	Row 61
George Street (3)	Row 139
Northgate Street	Camden Place
Middlegate Street (2)	Row 142
Wordsworth Place	Church Road
South Denes	Beccles Road (2)
Lichfield Place	Southampton Place
Cobholm Terrae (2)	Clarence Road
Somerset Place	South Quay
North Quay	Apollo Plaee
Market Row	Wellington Road
Belfort Plaee (2)	Seymour Place
Row 138	Bell's Road
Ordnance Road	Nile Road
Row 125 (2)	High Street
Arehway, Tower Road	Row 60
Euston Road	Exmouth Road
	Boreham Road

Workhouse	Row 47
Row 44	Row 21
North Market Road	

MEASLES ranked next to Diarrhoea in the deaths due to zymotic causes. The disease was very prevalent in the early months of the year, and was the continuation of the outbreak of the autumn before. The number of deaths were very insignificant compared to the number of children attacked, and for this the very mild character of the disorder may be thanked. The following are the localities in which the deaths occurred :—

George Street	Trafalgar Rd., Gorleston (2)
Boreham Road (2)	Tottenham Street
Camden Place	Row 58
Southtown Barracks	Upper Cliff Road
Ipswich Place	Cliff Hill (2)
Johnson's Buildings	Pier Marsh
Row 137	New Street
Ely Place	

WHOOPING COUGH is an extremely infectious malady although a not very fatal one. It occurs in very young children, those too young to isolate apart from their mothers, but as it is believed the sanitary condition of its locality has an influence upon the disease, I give below the places where deaths resulted :—

Row 44	Rainbow Corner
Garden Cottages	Workhouse
Garden Lane	Belgrave Place
Belfort Place	Row 132
Admiralty Road	Derby Cottage
Pier Walk	Ice House Lane
Caister Road	Cliff Hill
Row 37	Row 45

TYPHOID FEVER claimed a few victims. As this is a disease before all others, if not actually due to, certainly

much favoured by unsanitary conditions, I give the localities in which the deaths happened :—

North Quay	Clarence Road
Row 143	Middlegate Street
Tower Road	Swirle's Place
Vernon Terrace	Gedge's Buildings
North Church Road	

SCARLET FEVER has now for many years past shown itself more or less in the mortality returns. It creeps from place to place in the most unsuspecting manner, and as it attacks a great many more than it kills 'tis difficult to trace it. The mild cases, which many people speak of as scarlatina, and regard as something of far less importance than scarlet fever, are the cases which do most to spread abroad the dreadful disease. They are just as potent for the dissemination of the disorder as the most virulent case, and until this fact is recognised more widely than it now is, I am afraid sporadic cases will continue to occur. The localities where deaths happened last year were :—

Roman Place	West Nettle Hill
Elm Walk (2)	York Road
Beckett's Buildings	Garden Lane

DIPHTHERIA was fatal in only one instance, and that in a visitor who is believed to have brought the disease with her, and she died at

Wellesley Road.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.

During the year five cases of Scarlet Fever, four of Smallpox, and one of Typhoid Fever, were received and treated at this institution. The disinfecting apparatus was frequently in use.

I am of opinion that had it not been for the isolation the hospital afforded, I should have had an outbreak of

Smallpox to report. A man from a vessel in the roadstead and a visitor from Forest Gate were two of the patients, and both these brought the disease with them to the town. In fact it was in consequence of the sailor having caught the disease in Fecamp, and being very bad with it on board the ship, that necessitated his coming on shore at this place. The visitor from Forest Gate had the disease in his system when he left home, and laid up with it immediately upon reaching his lodgings in this town. Where the infection came from in the other two cases was a mystery.

SANITARY WORK.

NUISANCE REMOVAL.

Total number attended to by Inspector	...	873
Remedied by Inspector's notice only	...	501
Referred to the Town Clerk to take proceedings	...	372
viz. (a) To construct new drains, to repair and cleanse old ones, and to cleanse and trap cesspools	...	108
(b) To reconstruct and otherwise repair privies	...	94
(c) To put up water troughing	...	42
(d) To close impure water wells	...	37
(e) To provide water supply	...	31
(f) To channel and make up road	...	19
(g) To re-lay backyards, passages, &c.	...	11
(h) To remove manure, discontinue keeping pigs, &c.	...	9
(i) To repair cellar doors, &c.	...	6
(j) To repair and remove muck bins	...	5
(k) To cleanse and repair W.C.'s, rain water cisterns, limewash premises, &c.	...	20

Besides the work above indicated, the slaughter houses, markets, common lodging houses, cowsheds, milk shops, &c., have been frequently visited by your officers, and the surveillance thus kept over such places has ensured as far as possible their clean and wholesome condition.

THE TOWN SEWERS.

The offensive stenches arising from the public sewers throughout the town, have for many years past given you considerable anxiety, and efforts have been made by ventilating and flushing, to abate the nuisance. The efforts, well intentioned, have however fallen far short of remedying the evil, indeed the surface ventilators set free into the public thoroughfares so much sewer gas that you have been requested, by many of the inhabitants to close them ; the memorialists apparently completely forgetting the great likelihood of the sewer gas finding its way into their houses, if prevented spending itself in the open air. I have, in several of my reports, directed attention to this matter, notably in that for 1876 and 1877, and again in the report for 1881. If the sewers were clean and well aired, no offence would arise from them, but the very fact of them making and emitting so much sewer gas, is in itself, sufficient evidence of their foul state ; and the flushing and ventilating above mentioned, which by the way was a mere mockery of the real thing, only made their foulness more perceptible by stirring up the filth without removing it.

By your order the Borough Surveyor has during the winter made a thorough examination of the town sewers. I looked on and witnessed for myself many of the defects his researches brought to light. Some of the sewers had apparently not been entered for years. Twelve or thirteen miles of sewers were examined, and at least half of that length must be taken up and relaid.

All that the Surveyor proposes to do by way of cleansing, reconstruction, new sewers, ventilation, flushing and de-dourizing, has been laid before you, and also a Government Inspector, and I am glad to say been approved of. When the work is completed no length of the public sewers in this town will be beyond the reach and observation of your officials, for every surface ventilator will be a man-hole and flushing entrance, and none of these will be much more than fifty yards apart.

This is the most important sanitary work of the whole year, and one that will prove immensely beneficial to the health of the Borough.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

JOHN BATELY,

Medical Officer of Health.

